

Bayou Sauvage

National Wildlife Refuge



Kenneth Litzenberger, Project Leader
Neil Lalonde, Refuge Manager
Southeast Louisiana Refuges
Bayou Lacombe Centre
61389 Highway 434
Lacombe, LA 70445
Phone: 985/882 2000
Fax: 985/882 9133
E-mail: southeastlouisianarefuges@fws.gov

Refuge Facts

- Established: 1990. Authorized under the Emergency Wetland Act in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan.
- Acres: 24,293.
- Location: The refuge is located in New Orleans East, about 20 minutes from downtown. It is entirely within the city limits of New Orleans and is considered the nation's largest urban refuge. Bayou Sauvage can be accessed from I-10, U.S. 90, and U.S. 11.

Natural History

- The Refuge was formed by the abandoned St. Bernard delta of the Mississippi River and consists of silt and sediments deposited by the River.
- The Refuge provides habitat for an abundance of waterfowl, raptors, wading birds and shorebirds.
- Includes approximately 13,000 acres of freshwater marsh contained within hurricane and flood-protection levees, 11,000 acres of brackish marsh, and 200 acres of forested lands on low ridges.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Approximately 50,000 visitors in fiscal 2012.

Refuge Purposes

- To enhance the population of migratory, shore and wading birds.
- To encourage natural diversity of fish and wildlife species.
- To protect endangered and threatened plants and animals.
- To fulfill the international treaty obligations of the nation with respect to fish and wildlife.
- To protect archaeological resources.
- To provide for scientific research and environmental education with emphasis on wetlands.

- To provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-oriented recreation in an urban setting.

Management Tools

- Water management is conducted through gravity flow structures and water pumps. This type of management benefits waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds; it is also used for marsh restoration and noxious plant control.
- Prescribed fire.
- Trapping of exotic wildlife, feral hog and nutria.

- Environmental education.

- Law enforcement.

- Partnerships.

Public Use Opportunities

- Interpretive trails and boardwalks.
- Fishing.
- Bird watching.
- Canoeing.
- Photography.
- Crawfishing and crabbing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Boating and launch.
- Youth waterfowl hunting.

Questions and Answers

When is the refuge open to fishing?
Sportfishing and shell fishing are permitted year-round inside the Hurricane Protection Levee and only after 12 pm outside the Hurricane Protection Levee from November 1 through January 31, and during the state teal season.

Can you hunt on Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge?

Yes! Youth hunting is permitted on Bayou Sauvage NWR in designated areas only. A signed hunting brochure is required for all youth and adult.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Can you crab and crawfish on the refuge?

Yes! Recreational crawfishing and crabbing are allowed on the refuge. There is a 100 pound per person limit on the crawfish. Commercial crabbing is not allowed.

Can you come to my school and conduct an environmental education program or can I bring a school group to the refuge?

The answer to both parts of this question is yes. The staff at the refuge is ready to conduct programs in the schools or welcome the schools to the refuge.

For further details consult the refuge Fishing and Public Use Regulations brochure. To schedule a school program at Bayou Sauvage please call 985/882 2000.